

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday May 23, 2021

Pentecost

NL: Acts 2:1-4, Galatians 4:1-7

+ GATHERING +

Together with God the creator, Jesus our Redeemer, and the fire of the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS¹ +

We do not stop enough to listen to the still-speaking God. And like the people of Jerusalem long ago, we often misunderstand the Spirit's movement among us. In the silence and stillness of this moment, let us draw near to God and listen.

We confess to you, Renewing Spirit, that we confuse unity with uniformity, and diversity with divisiveness. We speak and behave as if being a part of your family means assimilating others to our way of living. We deny and destroy the beauty you created in each person. We long to change these patterns, O Creator, but we do not know how. Teach us to value challenge. Help us to see strength in difference. And empower us to build your kingdom in creativity and love. **Amen.**

Hear the good news!

God's Spirit has been poured out upon all people, and we have been made one. We are no longer scattered or divided, but gathered together to build up the kingdom on this earth. Thanks be to God!
Amen.

+ PRAYER +

Abba, Father, you have adopted us as heirs of your kingdom and we have inherited the gift and presence of the Holy Spirit. Through the fire of the Spirit make us generous givers of all that you have bestowed upon us, for the sake of the one whose fire brings light and life to all the world, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

+ SCRIPTURE +

- + **Acts 2:1-4, Galatians 4:1-7**
- + **Spark Story Bible:** The Holy Spirit (Page 502-503)
- + **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

Option 1: Click on your congregation's online weekly sermon video & watch it together
Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

Questions:

- + What does it mean to you that the Holy Spirit is our advocate?
- + Share/think of a time when the Holy Spirit was noticeably active in your life or the life of your church?
- + Do you have a favorite piece of art or a depiction of the Holy Spirit that is meaningful to you? Why is that image powerful for you?

+ APOSTLES' CREED +

I believe in God, the Father Almighty
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the virgin Mary,
Suffered under Pontius Pilate,
Was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
And he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
The holy catholic church,
The communion of saints,
The forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body,
And the life everlasting. Amen.

+ PRAYERS +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + We pray for our congregations, councils, planning teams, rostered leaders, and members – as they continue to connect through adaptive faith practices, make careful and thoughtful decisions about ministry, and celebrate the body of Christ at work in the world. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For medical professionals, emergency service workers and mental health professionals, that they be given endurance for their important work, continued wisdom to make important decisions, and the support they need to care for themselves and their families. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + During this Pentecost celebration of the church, where many voices come together in understanding and common purpose, we pray for all those who find themselves on the fringes, hungry, homeless, facing injustice, violence, or abuse, and those who simply struggle to find safety and inclusion, and we look to the love of Christ to guide our faith to serve these neighbors so that everyone can know the compassion of God. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + For farmers, gardeners, arborists, and horticulturalists, that they be granted ideal growing conditions, and adequate resources for preserving and caring for plants and crops of all kinds. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + We are grateful for our educational institutions, and we give thanks for the dedication of all teachers, administrators, and school staff. And for all the students who are celebrating their milestone of graduation, that they will know the love of Jesus Christ, and the support of their families, friends and communities as they look to the next phase in their lives. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ *Add your own prayers here...*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **AMEN.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

+ LORD'S PRAYER +

Our Father in heaven,
Hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth, as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
As we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
And deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
And the glory are yours,
Now and forever. **AMEN.**

+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water, and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, **"You are a beloved child of God."**
Take turns until each household member has been blessed.

+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +

Prayer of the Day from: <https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/narrative-lectionary/pentecost-gifts-of-the-spirit-2/commentary-on-acts-21-4-galatians-41-7-2>

¹ Confession from *Come, Let Us Build*, written by Rev. Mary Nelson Abbott. Posted on the United Church of Christ's *Worship Ways* Archive. <http://www.ucc.org/worship/worship-ways/year-c/p/pentecost-sunday.html>